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NSC BRIEFING

8 June 1964

FRENCH ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNMENT PROSPECTS

I. This week's National Assembly schedule calls for:

A. Hostile interpellations on Indochina (start Tuesday 8 June) by Socialists, Gaullists.

B. These should take all 8 June, possibly part of Wednesday 9 June (evening session planned 9th if necessary).

C. Government may not complete reply by 9 June.

D. Laniel demand for confidence vote is possible early AM Thursday 10 June.

E. However, required 24-hour delay would postpone actual vote until Friday 11 June at earliest: vote might not come until next week.

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1. Economic outlook most crucial in
life Fourth Republic.

A. Laniel opposition in Assembly
stiffer.

1. Increasing impatience over
lack progress at Geneva:
2. Anti-EDC forces (center, right)
hope use Indochina to over-
throw government because fear
of pro-EDC developments.

B. Despite this Laniel may be able
to hold on:

1. Will point to positive steps
taken in Indochina, dispatch
of top general, Ely.
2. Coalition parties unwilling
accept onus for crisis while
Geneva still offers hope.
3. Opposition still unable to
agree on a successor to Laniel.

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C. New factor, however, is politicians' view that new elections good idea.

1. Forming new government in present Assembly might take as long as new elections: they remember 5-week crisis spring 1953. Only takes 6-7 weeks form new Assembly.
2. Success of pro-EDC candidates in recent by-elections indicates that new Assembly would be more pro-EDC.

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